



ATLAS™ COMICS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE PHOENIX...

PROTECTOR

25c
NO. 4
OCT
43902

THE ALL NEW
PROTECTOR!
THE MOST
EXCITING
SUPER-HERO
OF THEM ALL!!

I AM CYCLOPS!
I LIVE TO KILL--
AND I KILL TO LIVE!

I MUST
STOP HIM--
I MUST!
EVEN IF I
DIE
TRYING!

THE
PROTECTOR--
HE'S SACRIFICIN'
HIMSELF TO
SAVE US!

RUN!
RUN!



THE PHOENIX

FROM THE ASHES OF TODAY--
RISES THE MAN OF TOMORROW!!

(PHOE. NIX) EGYPT. MYTH.
A BIRD WHICH LIVED FOR
500 YEARS AND THEN
CONSUMED ITSELF IN FIRE,
RISING RENEWED FROM THE
ASHES. (WEBSTER'S NEW
WORLD DICTIONARY.)

I MUST SOAR
HIGHER--HIGHER--
AT EVEN GREATER
SPEED!

THERE! MY BODY
IS STARTING
TO BURN!

THE HEAT IS GETTING
UNBEARABLE!

THIS IS
IT--
THE
END!



THE BRIEF AND BIZARRE CAREER OF
ED TYLER, ASTRONAUT TURNED
SUPERBEING, NEARS A SOUL-
SEARCHING CONCLUSION! AND BE-
FORE THIS DAY IS FINISHED, HE WHO
IS CALLED THE PHOENIX WILL BE
REBORN...

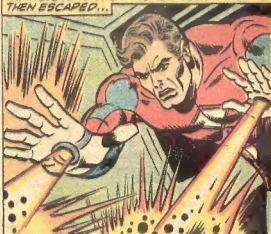
a MAN for ALL CENTURIES!

WRITTEN BY: GARY FRIEDRICH
DRAWN BY: RIC ESTRADA
INKED BY: FRANK GIACOIA
LETTERED BY: SHELLY LEFERMAN
EDITED BY: LARRY LIEBER

IN THE SPAN OF A FEW SHORT DAYS, ED TYLER HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY EXTRA-TERRRESTRIAL BEINGS AND IMPRISONED IN THEIR SUBTERRANEAN FORTRESS BENEATH THE NORTH POLE...



LEARNING OF THEIR PLANS TO DESTROY THE PLANET EARTH, TYLER STOLE ATOMIC TRANSISTORS FROM HIS CAPTORS AND THEN ESCAPED...



...ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF A MERE PAWN IN ALIEN ATTACKS WHICH NEARLY WIPED OUT NEW YORK CITY AND THE CAPITAL OF ICELAND.



IT ALL HAPPENED IN ISSUES #1 AND 2!...L.L.

AND IF THAT WERE NOT TRAGEDY ENOUGH FOR ANY HUMAN TO BEAR, ED TYLER FAILED UTTERLY IN TWO ATTEMPTS TO RID HIS HOME PLANET OF ITS MORTAL ENEMIES!





I GUESS I ALWAYS **KNEW** MANKIND WOULD MANAGE TO DESTROY ITSELF SOMEDAY...

...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT ALIEN BEINGS WOULD DO THE JOB FOR US-- WITH MY HELP!

BUT WHEN IT HAPPENS--WHEN THE **END COMES**-- I WON'T BE HERE TO SEE IT! I'M **CASHING IN!**



BUT NOT UNTIL I LEAVE A **TOMBSTONE** FOR WHATEVER POSTERITY REMAINS!



THERE IT IS-- THE **EPITAPH** FOR A DYING WORLD--A RACE DOOMED FROM THE DAY IT FIRST DREW BREATH!

NOW THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT TO **BLAST OFF** AND TELL IT ALL **GOOD-BYE!** TO HEAD SKYWARD SO FAST THAT I **BURN MYSELF UP** IN THE **ATMOSPHERE!**



Continued on 3rd page following.



BECOME A REGISTERED

BLACK BELT

THE DEADLIEST MEN ALIVE ARE

AICONDO MEN

THE COMBAT SYSTEM THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE
DISTILLED FROM ANCIENT FIGHTING ARTS!

SOLD NATIONALLY AT \$9.95. NOW ONLY \$6.95.

Life is not a Game . . .

Aicondo is not a sport. It is a deadly self-defense system using the best of Karate, Kung-Fu, Judo and Aikido. It is a razor-sharp system of action response. It is the final answer to violence in the streets . . . violence by the thief, by the thrill seeker, by the bully, violence that can strike you down and touch the lives of those you love. Aicondo has the answer to any hostile attack whether by fist or foot, open-hand or weapon. Aicondo is the combat system that can save your life and change it for the better.

Two Experts Train You

Your body is a masterpiece machine. With training it becomes a weapon of fantastic speed, stamina and skill. Step by step in action photos Aicondo experts teach you every move and parry tailored for instant victory. You learn to laugh off verbal abuse. You learn to remain cool until hostile contact is made. Then and only then will you render your attacker helpless with minimum physical force. Dedication to Aicondo will pay off in power, agility, self-reliance and pride.

Select a Trusted Friend

Share your Aicondo Training with a reliable friend. Together you will achieve the body tone that sets the stage for mastery. You can trade off attack and defense to attain razor-sharp combat response. Men who have shared Aicondo training develop bonds that stay strong long after the rank of First Degree Black Belt has been earned.

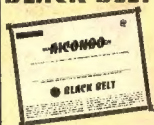
Join the Aicondo Fraternity

On completion of your training you may join the Aicondo Martial Arts Federation with the Rank of First Degree Black Belt. At no additional cost you will be issued a numbered Certificate of Rank with Gold Seal suitable for framing. You will command new respect wherever life takes you.

Enrollment is Growing

Aicondo enrollment has reached an all-time high for 1974. So that you will not be disappointed we urge you to mail the Registration Coupon today. Allow two weeks for the Aicondo Home Study Course to arrive. Good luck and good training. We will be with you all the way!

EARN THE RANK OF BLACK BELT



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PACKED WITH ACTION PHOTOS!
NOW JUST \$6.95

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I am prepared to study and master the Aicondo combat system. Send me immediately the Aicondo Accelerated Personal Home Study Course.

NAME _____

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE IN CAPITALS)

STREET ADDRESS _____

TOWN OR CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

I enclose \$6.95 plus 50¢ postage and handling
NO C.O.D. PLEASE

Play 1975 Big League

BASEBALL GAMES

- PITCHING
- HITTING
- FIELDING
- RUNNING
- MANAGING

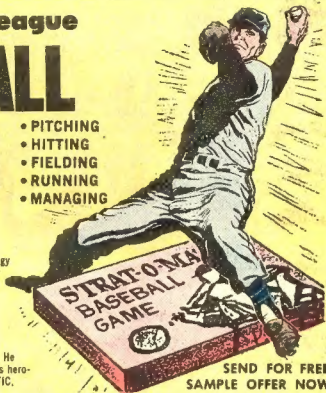
Easy to play real thrilling, exciting baseball with STRAT-O-MATIC. Big League players perform according to their actual abilities and your managerial decisions. You, the manager, call all strategy moves for all Major League Teams.

You have real control over all Major League players—who actually hit, pitch, field and run according to their baseball abilities.

Each player has truly individual qualities. He slumps and goes into hot streaks, performs heroics and commits errors. With STRAT-O-MATIC, all qualities of a ballplayer are realistic.

For example, in batting Mike Schmidt will be among the leaders in both home runs and strike outs. Bill Buckner will be among your batting average leaders, but will have difficulty hitting left handed pitching.

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**SEND FOR FREE
SAMPLE OFFER NOW**

In fielding, Paul Blair will make catches which other outfielders would fail to make. Don Money will make fewer errors and take away more would-be base hits than other third basemen. In base running and stealing also, all players will perform realistically.

STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball is actually two games in one, a basic version for youngsters and an advanced version for adults. The basic game is simple and exciting to play and the advanced game has no equal in realism and play value.

The above are just some of STRAT-O-MATIC's highlights. For the entire story, mail coupon for a colorful FREE Brochure containing full, detailed information and FREE STRAT-O-MATIC SAMPLES. Don't Delay. Write Today!



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STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO., Inc.
46 Railroad Plaza, Glen Head, N.Y. 11545

Dept. 341

Send exciting FREE STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball Game offer and samples.
I enclose 10 cents in coin or stamps to cover postage and handling.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....Zip.....





I'LL TURN UP MY ATOMIC TRANSISTORS TO THE MAXIMUM...

...AND HEAD AS HIGH-- AS FAR-- AND AS FAST AS THEY'LL TAKE ME!

THERE! ALL IT TAKES NOW IS THE GUTS...



...AND...

WHROON

THE PRESSURE-- STRONGER! CAN HARDLY--BREATHE!

HEAT--BUILDING UP! CAN'T HOLD OUT-- MUCH LONGER!



GOODBYE--LESLIE! HOPE YOU GO--EASIER!

AND IF YOU RECOGNIZE THIS SCENE, YOU'RE RIGHT ON, BROTHER --OR SISTER, FOR YOU WOMEN'S LIBBERS! THIS IS WHERE WE CAME IN--L.L.

BUT AS THE PHOENIX EMULATES THE DEATH FLIGHT OF HIS NAMESAKE--



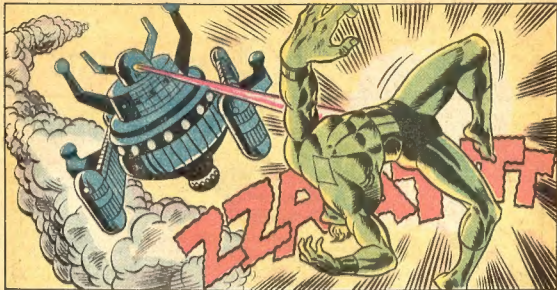
--AS HIS VERY FLESH BEGINS TO SEAR, ALIEN EYES OBSERVE HIS EVERY MOVEMENT FROM A REVOLVING SPACE STATION HIGH ABOVE!

ENOUGH!

TELEPORT THE BARTHMAN ABOARD!

HE MUST BE TAKEN ALIVE!!





IT IS DONE!
THE EARTHMAN
WILL BE ABOARD
MOMENTARILY!

EXCELLENT! SEE THAT
HE'S TAKEN TO THE
DISPENSARY IMMEDIATELY!

AND LET THE
TRANSFORMATION
PROCESS
BEGIN!

WHILE A FEW HUNDRED MILES BELOW, IN WHAT ONCE
WAS THE HOME OF ASTRONAUT ED TYLER--

WHERE ARE
YOU,
DARLING?
WHEN WILL
YOU RE-
TURN TO
ME? WHY
DON'T YOU
AT LEAST
CALL?

YOU SAID YOU
HAD AN IMPOR-
TANT JOB TO
DO--BUT IT'S
TAKEN SO LONG--
THE WAIT IS
UNBEARABLE!

AND ALL THE NEWS
YOU'VE BEEN MAKING--
WEARING A COSTUME
--TAKING ON THE
NAME PHOENIX?!

AND THOSE
TERRIBLE
THINGS
THEY'RE
WRITING
ABOUT YOU
IN THE
PAPERS!

I KNOW
YOU CAN'T
BE GUILTY
OF DESTROY-
ING CITIES
--KILLING
HUNDREDS
OF PEOPLE!
NO--I WON'T
BELIEVE
IT!

I'LL DO AS
YOU ASKED--
I'LL JUST
WAIT--WAIT
UNTIL YOU
HOLD ME
ONCE MORE
IN YOUR
ARMS AS YOU
PROMISED
YOU WOULD--

--WAIT
EVEN IF
IT TAKES
A LIFE-
TIME!

*
TYLER SPOKE WITH
HIS WIFE LESLIE BRIEFLY
IN ISSUE #2!--L.L.

Continued on 3rd page following.

STAR TREK MODEL KITS

Create your own interplanetary Star Trek adventures with these far-out, all-plastic hobby kits. Each is highly detailed, easy-to-assemble, and will turn your room or den into an outer space showcase. Be sure to specify code number when ordering.



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Detailed scale models of instruments used by 'Enterprise' crew. Includes phaser, tricorder, and communicator. Fun to assemble; fun to use. \$2.75 & \$.50 Postage and Handling.



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(New York State residents please add 8% sales tax) All foreign and Canadian orders: please include \$1.00 extra postage and .99¢ postage and handling.

Now you can own all five **PLANET OF THE APES** films to show in your own home. Each film runs 12 minutes for a total screen-ape time of one full hour! Have a monkey party for your friends... be the talk of the neighborhood. Order one or all five films today!

Planet of the Apes Home Movies

FIVE SIZZLING SUPER-8 SPECTACULARS ON 200' REELS

PLANET OF THE APES

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First of the series! An astronaut crash-lands on a world where apes are the masters and humans the slaves. Exciting adventure starring Charlton Heston.

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A secondary spaceship lands on the Planet of the Apes. In addition to monkeys, the astronaut uncovers a race of horrifying mutants. The finale, a battle between apes, mutants, and astronauts, is absolutely spectacular.

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A pair of apes travels from their world to Earth of 1973. Here, they are pursued by hostile police and government agents. Gripping battle on board a freighter concludes this exciting film!



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CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

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The year is 1990, and the child of the two earth-apes grows to adulthood. He organizes a rebellion of apes against humans. An awesome battle ensues that involves thousands of apes, and destroys all Los Angeles. Explosions and thrills galore!

BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

#405 \$7.95 & \$.75 postage

The final film of this classic series. The apes take over the Earth, and we learn that the original Planet of the Apes was none other than Earth of the far future! A battle between apes and human slaves concludes this film.

SPECIAL! Order all five films for only \$36.00. Save \$3.75! (Plus \$1.00 postage)

GLOW IN THE DARK JIGSAW PUZZLES



CREATURE.
1104



PHANTOM
1105



FRANKENSTEIN
1106

Assemble the 300 frenzied pieces . . . turn out the lights and watch 'em shine! Each one is only \$2.50 + 75¢ postage or send for all three glow in the dark puzzles for \$7.50 postage paid!

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ATTENTION COLLECTORS!

RARE

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An amazing record imported from England! The original motion picture soundtrack of The Golden Voyage of Sinbad in full-bodied stereo.

The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad once sold for \$3.98. It's now worth \$250.00! This album, as well, will increase in value over the years.

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Sure these soundtracks are expensive! But they're well worth the price. For two reasons. First, they feature classic scores of the fantasy film. Second, several years from now their worth will have increased many times over! Available in extremely limited quantities! Sorry, no more than three copies of each album per customer!



BARBARELLA lives in this exclusive collectors' item classic album. Features original music from the film. Only \$12.50 + \$1.00 postage. Specify #802



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Christopher Lee narrates **DRACULA** in an all-new recording. Side two features soundtrack music from great Hammer horror films! Only \$7.95 + \$1.00 postage. Specify #801



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The weird, unearthly tones of **THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN** soundtrack will leave you breathless! Only \$12.50 + \$1.00 postage. Specify #803

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• Add 8% N.Y. sales tax where applicable

AND, INDEED, IT MAY TAKE AT LEAST A LIFETIME OF WAITING, FOR THE LONELY YOUNG WIFE! FOR, WHILE SHE LONGS FOR HER MISSING HUSBAND...

HIS LIFE SIGNS REMAIN STABLE!

HE WILL SURVIVE THE TRANSFORMATION WITHOUT DIFFICULTY!

READY THE EPIDEMIC LASER! WE MUST PLACE HIM BEFORE THE PROTECTORS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

THE LASER IS FULLY OPERATIONAL! BEGIN WHEN READY!

HAVE ALL THE PROPER PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS BEEN PROGRAMMED?

THEY HAVE!

THEN IGNITE LASER!

HOURS LATER...

THE HUMAN AWAKENS! MAKE HIM COMFORTABLE, ZAR-DEY! I WILL NOTIFY THE PROTECTORS!

UUUNNN

HOW DO YOU FEEL, EARTHMAN? IS THERE PAIN? CAN I BE OF SERVICE TO YOU?

THREE-- BANDAGES! WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? AM I IN--A HOSPITAL?

CALM YOURSELF! YOU ARE PERFECTLY SAFE -- AND RECEIVING THE BEST OF CARE!

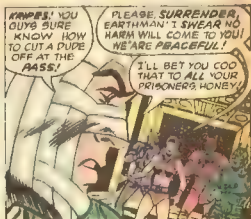
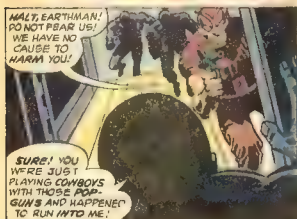
BUT I CANNOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS NOW! THEY MUST WAIT!

LIKE HELL THEY WILL! YOU CALLED ME EARTHMAN--

--AND THAT CAN ONLY MEAN--

--YOU'RE ONE OF THEM-- ONE OF THOSE DAMNED DEI!!

I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! I'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS NIGHTMARE BEFORE!



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BOOKS, ETC.

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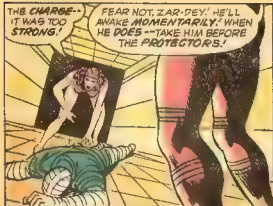


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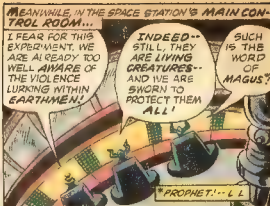
Guaranteed \$12 worth for only \$10





THE CHARGE--
IT WAS TOO
STRONG!

FEAR NOT, ZAR-DEY! HE'LL
AWAKE MOMENTARILY! WHEN
HE DOES--TAKE HIM BEFORE
THE PROTECTORS!



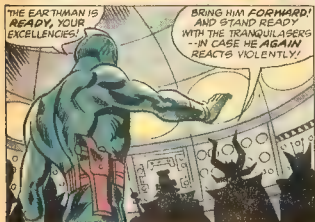
MEANWHILE, IN THE SPACE STATION'S MAIN CON-
TROL ROOM...

I FEAR FOR THIS
EXPERIMENT. WE
ARE ALREADY TOO
WELL AWARE OF
THE VIOLENCE
LURKING WITHIN
EARTHMEN!

INDEED--
STILL, THEY
ARE LIVING
CREATURES--
AND IVE ARE
SWORN TO
PROTECT THEM
ALL!

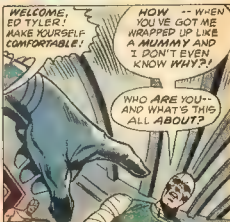
SUCH
IS THE
WORD
OF
MAGUS?

*PROPHET!-- L L



THE EARTHMAN IS
READY, YOUR
EXCELLENCIES!

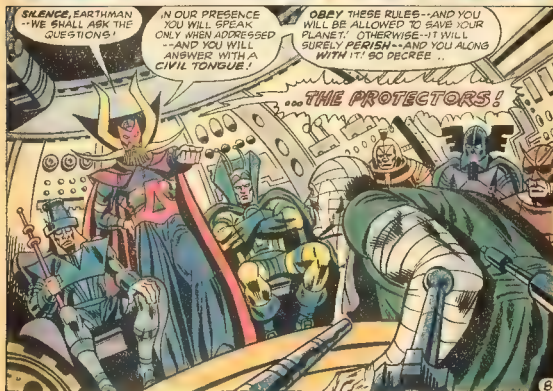
BRING HIM FORWARD!
AND STAND READY
WITH THE TRANQUILISERS
--IN CASE HE AGAIN
REACTS VIOLENTLY!



WELCOME,
ED TYLER!
MAKE YOURSELF
COMFORTABLE!

HOW -- WHEN
YOU'VE GOT ME
WRAPPED UP LIKE
A MUMMY AND
I DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHY?!

WHO ARE YOU--
AND WHAT'S THIS
ALL ABOUT?




SILENCE, EARTHMAN
--WE SHALL ASK THE
QUESTIONS!

IN OUR PRESENCE
YOU WILL SPEAK
ONLY WHEN ADDRESSED
--AND YOU WILL
ANSWER WITH A
CIVIL TONGUE!

OBEY THESE RULES--AND YOU
WILL BE ALLOWED TO SAVE YOUR
PLANET! OTHERWISE--IT WILL
SURELY PERISH--AND YOU ALONG
WITH IT! SO DECREE ..


...THE PROTECTORS!



NOW, I WILL EXPLAIN
OUR **EXISTENCE**--
AND WHY WE HAVE
SUMMONED YOU
HERE!

SPARE US
YOUR **HUMOR**!
WE HAVE NO
SENSE OF IT!

I'M ALL
BEARS!



MY COLLEAGUES AND
I WERE **APPOINTED**
PROTECTORS OF THE
UNIVERSE EONS AGO!

SINCE THEN, WE
HAVE CONTINUOUSLY
ROAMED THE COSMOS
--MERELY **OBSERVING**
LIFE-- BUT USING
FORCE TO PROTECT IT
ON OCCASIONS THAT
WE **DEEMED**
NECESSARY!



NOW MAY BE
SUCH A TIME--
AND THE **CAUSE**
IS THE **MADDENING**
PLANET YOU
CALL **EARTH!**

THOUSANDS
OF YEARS HAVE
ELAPSED SINCE
WE SENT THE
DEIEI TO
YOUR WORLD
TO **MONITOR**
THE **EVOLUTION**
OF THE HUMAN
RACE--

--AND WE ARE
MOST DISPLEASED
WITH YOUR
DEVELOPMENT!
NOWHERE ELSE
IN THE ENTIRE
UNIVERSE ARE
LIVING CREATURES
MOTIVATED BY
HATRED AND
GREED AS ARE
YOUR FELLOW
EARTHMEN!

YOU HAVE **RAPED** YOUR PLANET OF ITS
RESOURCES FOR **SELF-GAIN**--AND
KILLED FOR **SPORT!**

I SAY TO YOU, WERE THE CHOICE
WINS ALONE, I WOULD **ELIMINATE**
YOUR PLANET **INSTANTLY!**

BUT THE OMNIPOTENT **MAGUS** HAS
COMMANDED US TO GIVE YOU AND
YOUR ILK A **FINAL OPPORTUNITY** FOR
REDEMPTION--THE RESULT TO
REST SOLELY UPON THE SHOULDERS
OF **ONE EARTHMAN--YOU,**

ED TYLER!

YOUR MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS FEAT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN!

BUT YOUR PRIMITIVE BRAIN CAN ABSORB IT IN SCANT SECONDS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF OUR ATOMIC MENTAL EQUALIZER! STEP INTO IT, PLEASE!

AND, SINCE ED TYLER IS THINKING OF EARTH--LET US RETURN THERE--TO NASA HEADQUARTERS---

YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN CANNED -- JUST BE- CAUSE SOME CLOWN WHO LOOKS LIKE ED TYLER MAKES LIKE A SUPER-NUT?

YOU'VE GOT T! FROM NOW ON, MOTHER RUSSO'S BOY IS JUST ANOTHER RETIRED CIVIL SERVANT!

BUT I GUESS I UNDERSTAND MY DISMISSAL! I MEAN--WHAT IF THIS PHOENIX DUDE IS TYLER?

HE AND I WERE FRIENDS --AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T AFFORD THE SECURITY RISK!

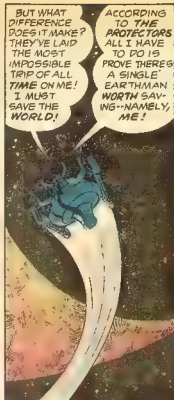
I ALWAYS KNEW I SHOULD'VE BEEN A MAIL MAN!



I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT! FIRST, THAT I ACTUALLY ABSORBED EVERYTHING IN A FEW BRIEF MINUTES--

--AND WHAT IT WAS THAT I DID ABSORB! AM I REALLY GONNA LOOK LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT MAN?

YOU WILL SEE FOR YOURSELF SHORTLY, EARTHMAN!



BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? THEY'VE LAID THE MOST IMPOSSIBLE TRIP OF ALL TIME ON ME! I MUST SAVE THE WORLD!

ACCORDING TO THE PROTECTORS ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PROVE THERE'S A SINGLE EARTHMAN WORTH SAVING--NAMELY, ME!



WELL--?

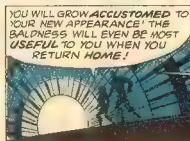
SHHEEEEEE! I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS--

--BUT IT SURE ISN'T ME! WHAT'D YOU DO--PASTE A PICTURE OF YUL BRYNNER OVER THE MIRROR?



IS IT SUCH A SHOCK? I HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED MANY TIMES--AND HAVE ALWAYS FOUND IT MOST PLEASANT!

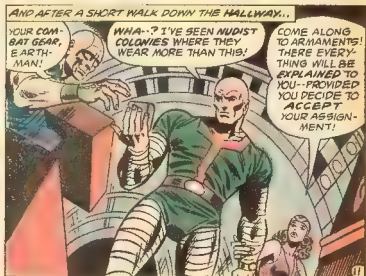
THAT'S FINE FOR YOU, HONEY--BUT WHERE I COME FROM, THE KISSER YOU'RE BORN WITH IS THE ONE YOU STAY WITH!



YOU WILL GROW ACCUSTOMED TO YOUR NEW APPEARANCE! THE BALDNESS WILL EVEN BE MOST USEFUL TO YOU WHEN YOU RETURN HOME!

NOW--COME WITH ME! WE ARE DUE IN THE GARMENT SECTOR--THEN THE ARMAMENT SECTION!

GREAT! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE HOW THEY DRESS SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE ME!



AND AFTER A SHORT WALK DOWN THE HALLWAY...

YOUR COMBAT GEAR, EARTH-MAN!

WHA--? I'VE SEEN NUDIST COLONIES WHERE THEY WEAR MORE THAN THIS!

COME ALONG TO ARMAMENTS! THERE EVERYTHING WILL BE EXPLAINED TO YOU--PROVIDED YOU DECIDE TO ACCEPT YOUR ASSIGNMENT!

BARTHMAN, THIS IS BAR-OL! HE IS IN CHARGE OF ALL THE PROTECTORS' ARMAMENTS!

TELL ME--WHY DO YOU AND HE RESEMBLE HUMANS--WHILE EVERYONE ELSE ABOARD THIS SHIP LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FROM A MEXICAN MONSTER MOVIE?

WE TWO ARE ZARDONIANS-- FROM A PLANET NOT UNLIKE YOUR OWN-- SAVE FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF ITS INHABITANTS!

BUT ENOUGH OF HISTORY! MY TASK IS TO ARM YOU! DON YOUR COSTUME!

IN FRONT OF HER?

MODESTY IS UNNECESSARY! YOU MERELY NEED TO PRESS THE MOLECULAR ACTIVATOR!

YOU MEAN THIS!

WHAT HAPPENED? WITH CHANGES QUICK AS THAT...

... I COULD MAKE A FORTUNE ON BROADWAY!

SILENCE! THE PRINCIPLE IS SIMPLE-- THAT OF MOLECULAR TRANS-FUSION! WHEN THE BUTTON IS PRESSED, THE MOLECULES OF THE SUIT EXPAND AND PASS THROUGHOUT YOUR BODY--CLOTHING YOU AUTOMATICALLY!

THE PROCESS WORKS IN REVERSE WHEN YOU WISH TO REVERT TO YOUR REGULAR GARMENTS! NOW--THESE ARE MINIATURE ATOMIC THRUSTERS! COMBINED WITH THE WINGS ON YOUR COSTUME-- THEY WILL GIVE YOU THE POWER OF FLIGHT!

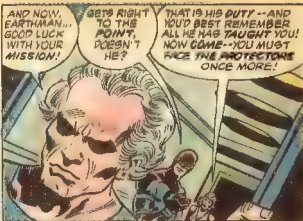
SWELL! BUT WHAT IF ONE OF THEM CONKS OUT AT 10,000 FEET?

MY IN-VENT-IONS NEVER FAIL, BARTH-MAN!

THIS IS A MOST SOPHISTICATED ALUTONIUM ENERGIZER! SIMPLY GRASP IT WITH BOTH HANDS--

--AND YOUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH WILL MULTIPLY TEN-FOLD! HOWEVER, THE DEVICE HAS ONE LIMITATION! IF YOU FAIL TO RE-ENERGIZE IT EVERY TEN MINUTES BY GRASPING IT--

--YOU WILL INSTANTANEOUSLY RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL STRENGTH LEVEL!



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HEY--WAIT A MINUTE! I'M NOT GONNA TANGLE WITH--

DAMN! IF THE ALIENS WANT ME IN CONDITION TO SAVE THE WORLD-- WHY ARE THEY PUTTING ME THROUGH THIS WRINGER?

BUT THE HECK WITH QUESTIONS! THIS THING'S LUNGING FOR ME--UNNNH!

AAARRRGHHH

I FEAR THAT EARTH'S FATE IS SEALED! FOR ONE SO WELL EDUCATED--THE HUMAN REACTS LIKE A CLOD IN COMBAT!

WHY DOES HE NOT USE THE WEAPONS HE WAS PROVIDED WITH?

UH OH-- I GUESS I AM! HE'S SPOTTED ME! HE'S COMIN' CLOSER!

I'D BETTER GET MY ACT TOGETHER --FAST! THAT THING'S MOVIN' IN LIKE THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING WITH FEET--

--FEET THAT CAN REALLY FLY! WAIT-- THAT'S IT! I FORGOT-- SO CAN I!

BUT FIRST I GOTTA FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE THESE BLASTED THRUSTERS WORK--

UUNNNHHH! I WAS LATE ON THAT ONE! BUT I GOTTA KEEP TRYING--BEFORE LAUGHING BOY BREAKS EVERY BONE IN MY BODY!

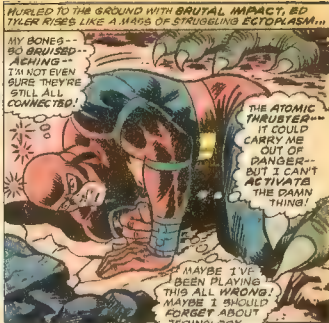
THE COMBAT IS ALL BUT ENDED! THE HUMAN HAS FAILED DISMALLY! HE DID NOT EVEN ACTIVATE HIS EQUIPMENT!

THERE'S GOTTA BE A SWITCH HERE SOMEWHERE-- I MUST FIND IT! I MUST!



THE CYCLOPS--
UNHH--HE'S
SQUEEZING--
THE LIFE
OUTTA ME

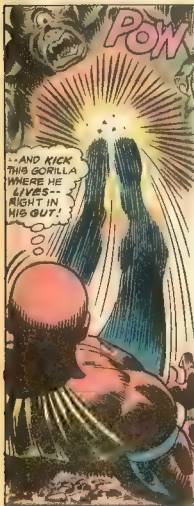
OH, NO--
NOW HE'S
LIFTING
HIS ARM!
HE'S GETTING
SET TO--TO--



MY BONES--
SO BRUISED--
ACHEING--
I'M NOT EVEN
SURE THEY'RE
STILL ALL
CONNECTED!

THE ATOMIC
THRUSTER--
IT COULD
CARRY ME
OUT OF
DANGER--
BUT I CAN'T
ACTIVATE
THE DAMN
THING!

MAYBE I'VE
BEEN PLAYING
THIS ALL WRONG!
MAYBE I SHOULD
FORGET ABOUT
TECHNOLOGY--



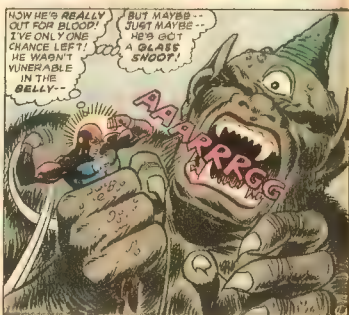
POW

--AND KICK
THIS GORILLA
WHERE HE
LIVES--
RIGHT IN
HIS OUT!



UH, OH--THAT
WAS A MISTAKE!
INSTEAD OF
STOPPING
LAUGHING BOY--
THE KICK ONLY
RILED HIM
MORE!

GRRROWL



NOW HE'S REALLY
OUT FOR BLOOD!
I'VE ONLY ONE
CHANCE LEFT!
HE WASN'T
VULNERABLE
IN THE
BELLY--

BUT MAYBE--
JUST MAYBE--
HE'S GOT
A GLASS
SHOOT!

AAAAARRGGG



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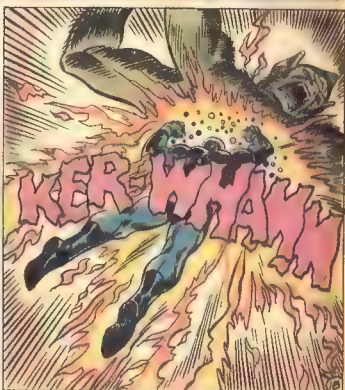
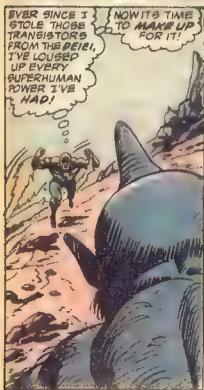
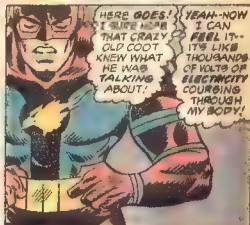
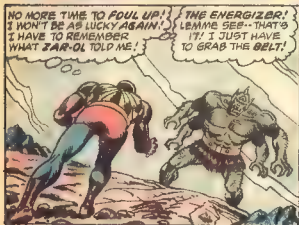
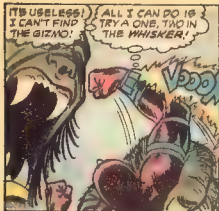
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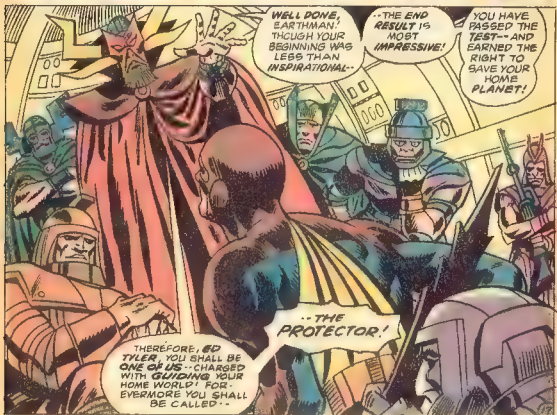
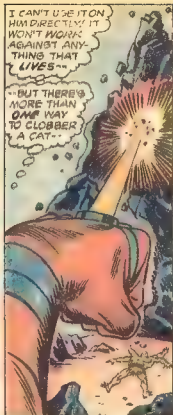
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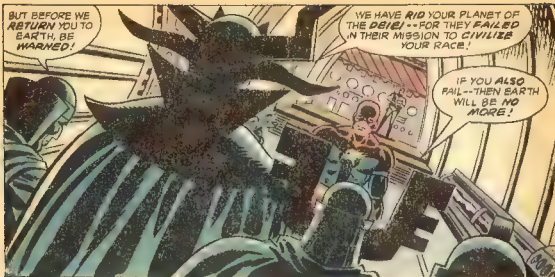
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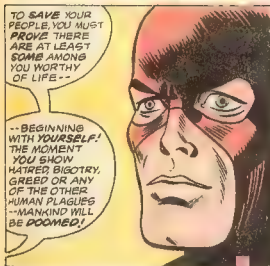
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BUT BEFORE WE RETURN YOU TO EARTH, BE WARNED!

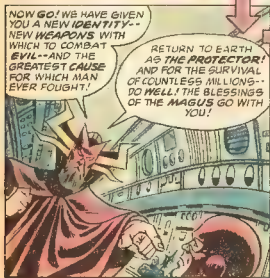
WE HAVE RID YOUR PLANET OF THE DEFEI! --FOR THEY FAILED IN THEIR MISSION TO CIVILIZE YOUR RACE!

IF YOU ALSO FAIL--THEN EARTH WILL BE NO MORE!



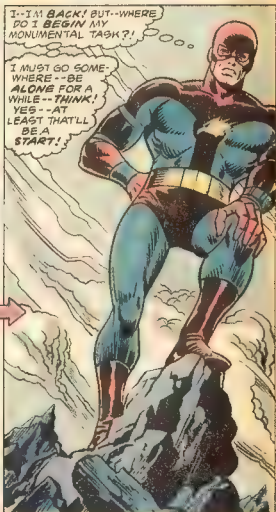
TO SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, YOU MUST PROVE THERE ARE AT LEAST SOME AMONG YOU WORTHY OF LIFE--

--BEGINNING WITH YOURSELF! THE MOMENT YOU SHOW HATRED, BIGOTRY, GREED OR ANY OF THE OTHER HUMAN PLAGUES--MANKIND WILL BE DOOMED!



NOW GO! WE HAVE GIVEN YOU A NEW IDENTITY--NEW WEAPONS WITH WHICH TO COMBAT EVIL--AND THE GREATEST CAUSE FOR WHICH MAN EVER FOUGHT!

RETURN TO EARTH AS THE PROTECTOR! AND FOR THE SURVIVAL OF COUNTLESS MILLIONS--DO WELL! THE BLESSINGS OF THE MAGUS GO WITH YOU!



I--I'M BACK! BUT--WHERE DO I BEGIN MY MONUMENTAL TASK?!

I MUST GO SOMEWHERE--BE ALONE FOR A WHILE--THINK! YES--AT LEAST THAT'LL BE A START!

NEXT ISSUE: THE PROTECTORS ARE WATCHING AS THE NEW PROTECTOR FACES "THE DAY THE PLANET DIED!"

FROM THE

ASHES

SEND ALL LETTERS TO ATLAS COMICS C/O SEABOARD PERIODICALS, 717 5TH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Larry:

Reading PHOENIX #2 was like reading the Bible. I'm not sure whether it was meant to appear that way, but having Phoenix separating the water like Moses, giving that little sermon about how killing a certain individual will kill the willpower of a race, and topping it off with a halo and crucifix in the last panel, sure made it look that way. And to that I say Bravo.

Phoenix is a welcome relief, in a world in which every super-hero has either a persecution complex, or the personality of a doorknob. Now we have something we can sink our teeth into, a super-hero with visions of Godliness.

DON VAUGHN
LAKE WORTH, FLA.

Dear PHOENIX People:

Fake-out is the word—you almost destroyed N.Y.C. and I was barely interested. I've lived here for 39 years and I'd love to see this place destroyed, but the way Amendola did it, I couldn't have cared less. Something like this must be hard to draw, but Sal didn't even try. All those laser-like beams wrecking Manhattan, and all the buildings are still intact—I mean, the windows weren't even broken.

Levy's story was fair. His dialogue is pretty good, and readable, but the circumstances he created were not believable. Ed Tyler goes home to tell his wife he's leaving her, and she says, "Ok, I understand. Do what you need to do with your life. I'll survive." If that's the way male chauvinist pig Levy thinks, I'd hate to be married to him.

ED SHAMULA
Bronx, N.Y.

We don't think Gabe would go for the marriage either, Ed—he never liked the Bronx much.

Seriously, though, as an astronaut's wife, Leslie is prepared to accept anything. Well, almost anything. From the mail response we've gotten it seems that most of the fans feel that Gabe has oversimplified the relationship. In any case, you haven't seen the last of Leslie; our ATLAS women don't give up that easily!

Dear Larry:

Sal Amendola did his job perfectly again. And Gabriel Levy took over Jeff Rovin's job beautifully. On page 13 of issue #2, Phoenix walks on water

and then parts it so the people can walk through on dry land. I think the idea has been used before (maybe I saw the movie?). But at least we know that Gabriel Levy reads the Bible.

ATLAS ON!

SCOTT TOPPING
Dowagiac, MI

Dear Gabriel, Sal, and Larry:

PHOENIX #2, "And the Sea Ran Red," was a bit of boredom. First, the art was a little stiff; there seemed to be little fluidity between individual panels. The Neal Adams technique of overstepping panel borders was entirely overused.

Besides the trite aliens-wreck-world-hero-stops-them plot, we have to contend with the Phoenix's seeming invincibility. This bothers me. He is too strong; too powerful. But I was pleased that even he expressed surprise at his powers—this is an honest way to present a hero. How is he to know how strong the alien transistors have made him? Touches like this can make the PHOENIX your most popular magazine.

All in all, PHOENIX is strong enough to stand, violent enough to draw a little controversy, philosophical enough to try teaching good-versus-evil—and most importantly, to show that the two are interchangeable.

He considers himself a "phoenix" because he has risen "from the ashes of hatred and prejudice," yet as Nerei said: "killed hundreds of my people to destroy a few aggressors." A mass murderer, a hero? If I were one of the Delet, that's what I would think. It's a great thing to find a comic that thinks

out its story—life isn't as simple as bad guys versus good guys.

STEPHEN PERRY
Jennesh, VT

We see you share our view of mankind, Steve. Everything is not as clear-cut as black and white. In presenting a comic as controversial as the PHOENIX, we are careful to examine all the in-between shades of gray that very often co-exist in the personality of a single man.

Dear ATLAS:

I've waited till your second set of mags hit the stands before I decided to write. I must say that I'm glad to see another line of comics.

Marvel and DC have had a virtual monopoly for the past 10-15 years. I think it's time they sweat a little from the heat of stiff competition. ATLAS is off to a pretty fine start.

Now for some comments on my favorite ATLAS title, PHOENIX. In the first issue, Ed Tyler's character wasn't too clear, but with issue #2, Gabe Levy has done an excellent job of characterization. I have one suggestion in regard to the Phoenix's costume: Give it some deeper colors. The shades you're using just don't suit a superhero.

RICK MAYHALL
Hampton, VA

Why just change colors? Garry Conway's not one to do things half way. He went ahead and gave the Phoenix a whole new costume. Let us know what you think.

NOW ON SALE!





Here's What's Happening With

ATLAS

A LETTER FROM LARRY LIEBER

They say that in the beginning was the word—but in my case, it was the **PICTURE** . . . for I was an artist before I became a writer.

Then, in 1958, I shifted gears and starting **WORDING** it for Marvel Comics . . . a not unlikely choice, considering that the editor was my brother. Some of you may have heard of him—his name is **STAN LEE**.

In those long ago, halcyon days, Stan plotted and scripted; I scripted; and a fellow named Jack Kirby just drew (about six pages a day).

Among my classic comic endeavors were the first **THOR**, the first **IRON MAN**, and the first **ANT MAN**. Thus, I gave to the world the name *Henry Pym* and a hammer called *Uru*. In return, the world gave me a chance to work with some of the most talented people in this industry . . . and none more so than Stan, himself (who taught me that *dialogue* is more important than *captions*, and *pay vouchers* are more important than either).

Then, for some forgettable reason, I left the world of superheroes and went **WEST**, young man . . . where I plotted, scripted, and pencilled **THE RAWHIDE KID** for a half-dozen years, pausing only to limn two **SPIDER-MAN ANNUALS**—which were aptly named, considering how long I took to limn them.

After that tour of duty, I reentered the twentieth century

And just to prove we're not whistling in the dark when we say that **ATLAS** is where it's at, here's what we have up our editorial sleeves (besides our elbows)!

To begin with, you know and we know that the **ATLAS** line is like a gem in the rough, subject to continuing refinement until it achieves the finish and shine of a polished jewel. More specifically, that means we're working hard at improving our present titles, trying new directions, and expanding our horizons with fresh ideas and concepts.

In other words, we're experimenting with the tried and true, as well as the new. And, to relieve your unbearable suspense, here are some of those exciting items. Let's begin with the new ones.

By now, you've seen the first issue of **THE BARBARIANS**, a sword-and-sorcery stew of savage worlds and even more savage men. *Ironjaw* and *Andrax* shared the debut issue; but waiting in the wings for #2 is *Wulf the Barbarian*—and just wait'll you see what all-new high-action hero is waiting in the wings for the third issue of **THE BARBARIANS**! It will be fantasy adventure at its finest!

For your delectation, we also have **HANDS OF THE DRAGON**, a martial arts effort with a difference (and for a mere 25¢, you'll discover what that difference is). It's chronicled by *Ed Fe-*

dory and our dashing new discovery from Canada, *Jim Craig*. By now you've seen *Jim's* exciting artwork on **THE SCORPION**, and since his enthusiasm is equalled by stamina and greed, he'll also be illustrating **WULF THE BARBARIAN**, with *Mike Friedrich* scripting (they start with #4).

But those aren't the only surprises in store for you—not by a long shot! Coming up next are not one, but two new books by *Rich Buckler* and *David Kraft*: Immediately following his premiere appearance in **TALES OF EVIL** #3, the **MAN-MONSTER** goes wild in his own bi-monthly magazine; and, on opposite months, you can pick up **DEMON-HUNTER**, destined to be one of the most action-packed quasi-superhero strips in the awesome age of **ATLAS**. Don't miss his origin in the epic collectors' item first issue!

But even that's not all. We've been saving the best for last—it's **SON OF DRACULA** by *Gary Friedrich* and *Frank Thorne*. Words can't do it justice. But you can do yourself a favor and pick up the first breathtaking issue; it's a *twist* on anything you might expect!

There's just enough room now to touch on some of the changes to watch for in current and upcoming issues of comics such as **MORLOCK 2001 & THE MIDNIGHT MEN** (the title ought to give you a hint, cause we're

and pencilled some of Marvel's mightiest covers . . .

until coming to work for **ATLAS**, where I now sit on the other side of the desk, breathing editorial life into this new major comics company.

But I'm lucky. Though the names have changed, the talent remains undiminished—as you'll discover for yourself when you read stories and view artwork by writers like **GARY FRIEDRICH** and illustrators such as **FRANK THORNE**.

I also have the good fortune to be employed by a publisher who's unafraid to roll up his sleeves. His name is **CHIP GOODMAN**, and for you aficionados of historical data, his father founded Marvel Comics way back when.

Last, but not least, I have an able editorial assistant, **DAVID KRAFT**, about whom you'll certainly be hearing more.

And now, to the overdue point of all this. Every comics company in this industry wants to give you, the reader, the **BEST WRITTEN** and **BEST ILLUSTRATED** stories possible. Here at **ATLAS**, our intent is no less.

I'm certain that we'll succeed! Just wait and see!

LARRY LIEBER
Editor

not going to say much more, other than that #3 is presented by the team of *Gary Friedrich*, *Steve Ditko* and *Berni Wrightson*).

And then there's **THE PHOENIX**, gaining "wings" and a new direction with the fourth issue, under the guidance of *Gary F.* and (hopefully) *Jack Abel*. Also in the department of new directions, "Plague of Blood" in **PLANET OF VAMPIRES** #3 by *Russ Heath* and *John Albano*—sets the scenario for horrors to come.

While we're at it, we'll remind you not to miss **TIGER-MAN** #3 and **THE DESTRUCTOR** #4, both by that peerless pair, *Gerry Conway* and *Steve Ditko*. Of course, **IRONJAW** and **THE BRUTE** will be forging new standards of excellence, helmed by our prolific *Gary Friedrich*, and *Pablo Marcos* (after an art fill-in on the third issue of the latter by *Al Weiss*). Okay, enough is enough—we can tell when we've wog-boggled you sufficiently for this issue. But don't go away, because there'll be lots more news next time—all of it good, if we can help it!

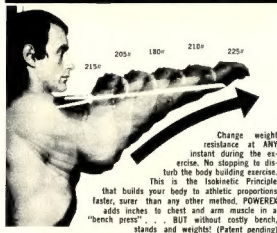
In the meantime, read up and let us know what you think about **ATLAS**. Write to the letter columns. We're depending on you to let us know what you like.

And remember: If it's amazing, astonishing, adventurous—it's **ATLAS**!

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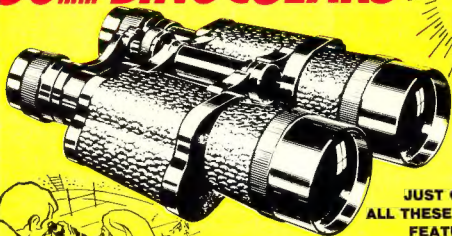
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